



PATENT

46277

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :  
Takumi HATSUDA et al. : Group Art Unit: 1712  
Serial No.: 10/764,535 : Examiner: M. Feely  
Filed: January 27, 2004 :  
For: WATER-ABSORBENT RESIN AND :  
PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREFOR :

**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the February 27, 2006 Office Action.

In the Action, claims 42, 43 and 46-52 are rejected. In view of the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Page 2 of the Action suggests that the claim for foreign priority has not been made in this application and that a certified copy of the foreign application is required. The present application is a continuation application of prior application Serial No. 09/954,812, which perfected the claim for priority. A certified copy of the foreign priority document was presented in the parent application. The present application being a continuation of the prior application is entitled to the benefit of the prior filing date as well as the foreign priority claimed in that application. The statute does not require submitting a certified copy of the foreign priority document in each continuation or divisional application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim for foreign priority has been perfected.